

## Buddy system

---

### Background

It is SDU's policy to ensure that our newly arrived international students feel that they are fully integrated in the Danish society and in the study environment – in other words: we need them to feel that they are welcome here, and that their boundaries are not violated. The buddy system supports this policy.

### What is a buddy?

A buddy is a current bachelor or master student at SDU Kolding, either Danish or international, who helps new international students in relation to their arrival. In other words, you will be a part of a welcoming committee, representing SDU Kolding.

### How much time will I need to spend?

The busiest period of time in relation to international students is from mid-August to mid-September. Thus, Student Services (in charge of the buddy system) expect you to be available in that period of time. However, naturally, we do allow for absence due to re-exams, schedules, illness, family issues etc.

In the beginning, you will discover that you are spending a lot of time with your international students. Naturally, this will gradually decrease as the international students become more independent and integrated. We suggest that you make time to meet with them once or twice a week at a fixed time and place the first couple of months to make sure that even the shyest international students will know that you are there for them.

### What do I need to do?

You will be asked to participate in a start-up meeting for buddies during the month of May.

You will be asked to pick up the international students assigned to you at Kolding train station, bus station, SDU or their address in Kolding. If you are not able to pick up the students at the time of their arrival, we will find a solution.

You will also be asked to participate in the introduction programmes for the international study programmes. In connection with the introduction programmes, you should present yourself to the international students and possibly give a guided tour of campus to a group of them. A manuscript for the guided tour will be available to you.

You will be asked to assist the students in finding their way to various registrations with the authorities. You are not required to know anything about the registration, but you will be informed by e-mail about the registrations.

You will be asked to participate in an evaluation meeting for buddies in October/November.

## How and for how long do I sign up for the buddy system, and when will I know that I have been selected as a member of the buddy team?

As a buddy, you will be required to sign up for at least one semester – preferably two. When you have accepted the terms (by filling in the online form), Student Services will invite you to a meeting, on which we will tell you more about the buddy system and ask you to confirm that you are still interested. After the meeting, Student Services will select the members of the buddy team and initiate the employment contract process. When all parties have signed the contract, you are officially a buddy, and you can begin preparing yourself for the arrival of your assigned international students.

## What's in it for me?

For your efforts, you will receive:

- Insight into other cultures and manners
- A broader horizon
- New friendships, new views
- A chance to participate in joint international events
- Various SDU merchandise
- Improved language skills
- A buddy diploma to embellish your CV
- A minor fee

If you choose to be a buddy coordinator (see below), you will receive a reference from Student Services in addition to the above-mentioned buddy diploma.

## Buddy coordinator

The buddy coordinator has the following additional tasks:

- In charge of finding alternative ways for international students to be picked up upon arrival, if the assigned buddy is not able to.
- In charge of coordinating events across buddies and assists in creating a meaningful chain of events.

## Event coordinators

If you have a special interest in one of the below-mentioned fields:

- Sports
- Culture
- Facebook
- Music
- Arts/Design
- Food

- Integration with Danes,

you are more than welcome to arrange events. You may contact the buddy coordinator and the other buddies for assistance.

### **I have questions, who do I contact?**

You are always welcome to contact:

Student Services  
Universitetsparken 1  
6000 Kolding

Lone Møland Munch, room 21.57  
Direct tel.: +45 6550 1312  
Email: [studieservice-ko@sdu.dk](mailto:studieservice-ko@sdu.dk)